

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:  
a plurality of servers configured to store file data as chunks; and  
a master connected to the servers and configured to:  
store namespace data that includes file identifiers for files for which the file data is stored as chunks,  
store mapping data that maps the file identifiers to the chunks to which the file identifiers correspond,  
store an operation log that includes a record of changes to at least one of the namespace data or the mapping data, and  
store location data that identifies which of the servers stores which of the chunks,  
where the master is configured to:  

communicate with the servers upon startup of the master to identify the  
[[data]] chunks stored by the servers, and  
record, in a non-persistent manner, information regarding the chunks  
stored by each of the servers as the location information that identifies ones of the  
servers that store the data, and  
periodically instruct, after recording the location information, the servers  
to provide information regarding the data stored by the servers.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to control placement of new [[data]] chunks at the servers.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein when controlling the placement of new [[data]] chunks, the master is configured to:

identify one or more of the servers to store the new [[data]] chunks based on at least one of utilization of the servers, prior chunk distribution involving the servers, network topology, or failure correlation properties associated with the servers, and

place the new [[data]] chunks at the identified one or more servers.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to control redistribution of the [[data]] chunks stored by the servers.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 5, wherein when controlling redistribution of the [[data]] chunks, the master is configured to:

select [[data]] a chunk to redistribute based on a current distribution of the [[data]] chunks,

identify one or more of the servers to which to move the selected [[data]] chunk, and  
move the selected [[data]] chunk to the identified one or more servers.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to monitor a state of the servers.
8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the master is configured to exchange heartbeat signals with the servers to determine the state of the servers.
9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the heartbeat signals include space utilization information.
10. (currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the state of the servers includes information regarding the chunks stored by the servers.
11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the information includes version numbers of the chunks.
12. (canceled)
13. (currently amended) A master in a file system that includes the master connected to a plurality of servers, the master comprising:  
~~means for performing a startup operation;~~  
means for communicating with the servers ~~at least one of during or after the startup~~

operation to identify [[the]] file data stored by the servers as chunks;

means for storing, in a non-persistent manner, location information that identifies ones of the servers that store the [[data]] chunks; [[and]]

means for updating the location information by periodically instructing the servers to identify the data stored by the servers;

means for storing namespace data that includes file identifiers for files for which the file data is stored as chunks by the servers;

means for storing mapping data that maps the file identifiers to the chunks to which the file identifiers correspond; and

means for storing an operation log that includes a record of changes to at least one of the namespace data or the mapping data.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store files as chunks; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

store namespace data that includes file identifiers for which the files are stored as chunks,

store mapping data that maps the file identifiers to the chunks to which the file identifiers correspond,

store an operation log that includes a record of changes to at least one of the

namespace data or the mapping data, and

store location data that identifies which of the servers stores which of the chunks,

where the master is configured to:

determine location information by communicating with the servers, the  
location information being based on which of the servers store ones of the chunks,

store the location information ~~as the location data in a non-persistent~~  
~~manner~~, and

update the location ~~information data~~ by periodically communicating with  
the servers to obtain changes to the location ~~information data~~.

16. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store file data as chunks; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

store namespace data that includes file identifiers for files for which the file data  
is stored as chunks,

store mapping data that maps the file identifiers to the chunks to which the file  
identifiers correspond,

store an operation log that includes a record of changes to the namespace data and  
the mapping data, and

store location data that identifies which of the servers stores which of the chunks,

where the master is configured to:

communicate with the servers to determine location information of the

data, the location information being based on which of the servers store the

[[data]] chunks, and

store the location information as the location data in a non-persistent manner;

~~periodically communicate with the servers to obtain changes to the location information, and~~

~~update the location information based on the changes to the location information.~~

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the file identifiers are organized hierarchically in a tree of directories.

20. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the master stores the namespace data using prefix-compression.

21. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the master is configured to identify one of the chunks via a chunk handle that uniquely identifies the one of the chunks.

22. (new) The file system of claim 21, where the chunk handle encodes a timestamp.

23. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the master is configured to update the location data by periodically instructing the servers to provide information regarding the chunks stored by the servers.

24. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the operation log includes a logical timeline that defines an order for concurrent operations.

25. (new) The file system of claim 1, where the master is configured to:  
determine when a size of the operation log exceeds a threshold, and  
create a checkpoint of the operation log when the size of the operation log exceeds the threshold.

26. (new) The file system of claim 25, where the master is configured to:  
create a new operation log file, and  
create the checkpoint as a background operation.

27. (new) The master of claim 13, where the operation log includes a logical timeline that defines an order for concurrent operations.

28. (new) The master of claim 13, further comprising:  
means for determining when a size of the operation log exceeds a threshold; and

means for creating a checkpoint of the operation log when the size of the operation log exceeds the threshold.

29. (new) The master of claim 28, where the means for creating the checkpoint includes:

means for creating a new operation log file, and

means for creating the checkpoint as a background operation.

30. (new) A method performed by a master device in a file system that includes the master device connected to a plurality of server devices, the method comprising:

communicating with the server devices to identify file data stored by the server devices as chunks;

storing location information that identifies ones of the server devices that store the chunks;

storing namespace data that includes file identifiers for files for which the file data is stored as chunks by the server devices;

storing mapping data that maps the file identifiers to the chunks to which the file identifiers correspond; and

maintaining an operation log that includes a record of changes to the namespace data and the mapping data.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, where maintaining the operation log includes



storing a logical timeline that defines an order for operations including concurrent operations.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
determining when a size of the operation log exceeds a threshold; and  
creating a checkpoint of the operation log when the size of the operation log exceeds the threshold.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, where creating the checkpoint includes:  
creating a new operation log file, and  
creating the checkpoint as a background operation.